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(54) **System and method for transmitting information using aircraft as transmission relays**

(57) A method of processing a message in a relay network comprises determining if a destination node is within range; if the destination node is not in range, identifying one or more network member aircraft within range; selecting one of the one or more network member aircraft within range; authenticating membership of the selected

network member aircraft if membership of the selected network member aircraft has not been previously authenticated; and transmitting the message to the selected network member aircraft in order to relay the message to the destination node at least in part via the selected network member aircraft.

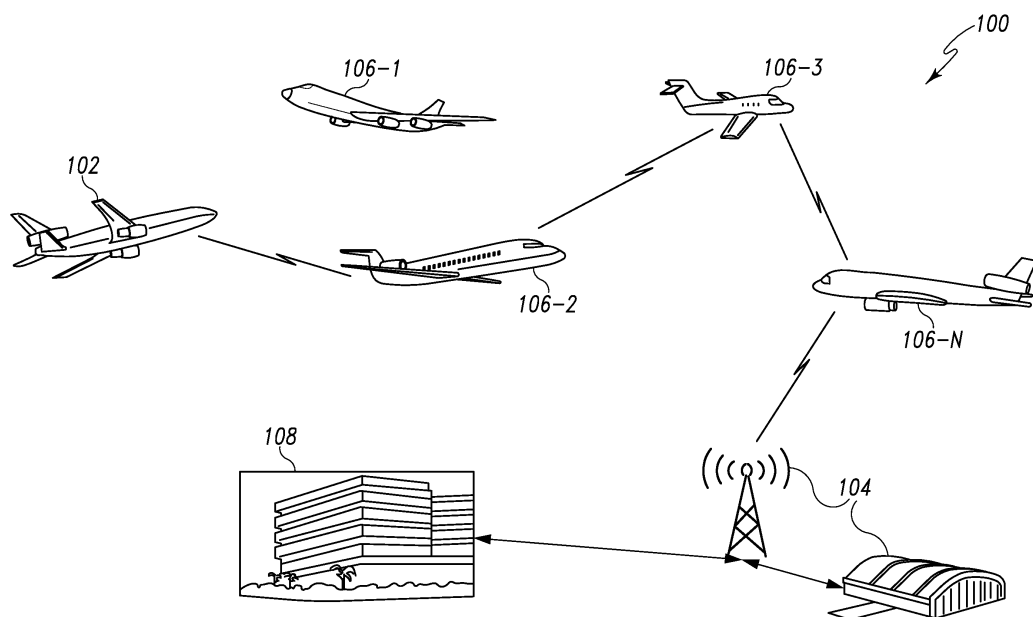


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 12 1056

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2005/108374 A1 (PIERZGA WAYNE F [US] ET AL) 19 May 2005 (2005-05-19) * abstract; figure 1 * * paragraphs [0044] - [0050], [0067], [0083] * -----	1-8	INV. H04B7/185
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X	US 7 085 562 B1 (HOLDER MICHAEL D [US] ET AL) 1 August 2006 (2006-08-01) * column 4, lines 17-53 * * column 5, line 15 - column 6, line 50 * -----	1-8	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			H04B H04L
4	Place of search Munich	Date of completion of the search 16 October 2008	Examiner Staeger, Rainer
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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